

It is perhaps worthy of note—and certainly a sign of the times—that during the conference practical demonstrations of contraceptive techniques and the treatment of sterility were carried out on Indian women volunteers.

L. N. JACKSON,
with some additions by M. C. N. JACKSON.

POPULATION

United Nations Statistical Office.

Demographic Yearbook, 1952. 4th issue. New York, 1952. United Nations. (London, H.M.S.O.) Pp. 518. Price, paper, 45s.; cloth, 55s.

THE 1952 *Demographic Yearbook* is the fourth in a series of international compendia of population information published by the United Nations. Wherever possible, the materials presented in the earlier editions are extended to include data for 1951. The most significant change in the current volume is the addition of four statistical tables dealing with the geographic distribution of the population. The specific subjects of the tables are the distribution of the population by major civil division, such as counties in the case of Great Britain and states for the United States (no. 5); urban and rural populations, by sex (no. 6); population of agglomerations or localities classified by number of inhabitants (no. 7); and the population of each city of 100,000 or more inhabitants and of each national capital and administrative centre (no. 8). An introductory chapter offers a pithy discussion of the trend of world urbanization since 1900 and the impact of this trend on such population variables and characteristics as fertility, mortality and the sex ratio.

The only other important substantive changes in the contents of the new volume are the addition of one table giving crude divorce rates, two which present statistics of resettlement and repatriation of refugees under the auspices of the International Refugee Organization, and the elaboration of an old table covering population counts and intercensal rates of change since 1900 to include the period 1850-1900.

Because the census offices of many countries have employed different definitions of the "urban population," the current *Yearbook* provides several guides to help the reader to judge the comparability of the data in the new tables dealing with the geographic distribution of the population. The results of a test of the accuracy of the distributions of the population by age and sex are presented for the first time.

The additions to the 1952 *Demographic Yearbook* are a sign of the continuing progress made by the United Nations Statistical Office in enlarging the scope and in appraising the quality of the statistics which it collects.

ROBERT GUTMAN.*

PSYCHOLOGY

Vernon, P. E. *Personality Tests and Assessments*. London, 1953. Methuen. Pp. x + 220. Price 18s.

IN contrast with other books on the same subject, Professor Vernon's has two outstanding merits: it is eminently critical, and it does full justice to British work. Nowadays it seems generally supposed that most attempts to assess personality by scientific means are due to the ingenuity of American psychologists. In point of fact, most of the ideas embodied in the various techniques employed—questionnaires, rating scales, the study of physical signs, the observation of expressive movements, as well as the correlational methods applied in estimating their value—emanate directly or indirectly from Galton; and it was Galton's followers who chiefly made them part of the psychologist's working tools.

In contemporary psychology the word "personality" has acquired a somewhat specialized meaning. As Professor Vernon remarks, in current usage "the term refers chiefly to a man's emotional and social qualities—his sentiments, drives, and interests." The attention nowadays devoted to this aspect of the individual mind is due

*This review, which appeared in *International Affairs*, July 1953, 29, 3, is reproduced by kind permission of the Royal Institute of International Affairs.